

Remarks:

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the non-final Office action dated September 11, 2006. Claims 34, 39, 41-44, 46-58, 60, and 66 are pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner (1) objected to claims 41-44 and 53-57, indicating that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form; and (2) rejected each of the other pending claims as being anticipated by or obvious over one or more references. Applicant traverses the rejections, contending that each of the pending claims is neither anticipated nor obvious.

Nevertheless, to expedite the issuance of a patent and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim aspects of the invention that applicant wants to patent now, applicant has amended the pending claims according to the objected-to claims. In particular, applicant has (1) amended claim 57 to independent form (including all the subject matter of independent claim 48), (2) amended each of dependent claims 34, 39, 41, 49, 50, 53, 55, 56, 58, and 66 to depend from independent claim 57; (3) canceled independent claim 48 and dependent claim 54, without prejudice; and (4) added new claims 67-74 that correspond, respectively, to objected-to claims 41-44 and 53-56. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the canceled claim and/or the original form of any of the amended claims at a later time. Furthermore, applicant has presented remarks showing that each of the pending claims is patentable for corresponding to, or depending from, an objected-to claim in rewritten form. In view of the amendments above, and the remarks below, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and prompt allowance of all pending claims.

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I. Claim Amendments

The present communication amends claims 34, 39, 41, 49, 50, 53, 57, 58, and 66, and adds new claims 67-74. Each of the amendments to the claims is fully supported by the application as filed. Exemplary support for selected claim amendments is presented in the following table:

<u>Claim</u>	<u>Exemplary Support</u>
57 (Independent)	Claims 48+57
67 (Independent)	Claims 48+34+41
68	Claim 42
69	Claim 43
70	Claim 44
71 (Independent)	Claims 48+53
72	Claim 54
73	Claim 55
74	Claim 56

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

In the Office action, the Examiner (1) rejected claims 34, 39, 46-52, 58, and 60 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0070868 to Jeutter et al., and (2) rejected claim 66 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jeutter in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,832,507 to van de Berg et al. Applicant traverses the rejections, contending that each of the pending claims is patentable over the cited references. Nevertheless, for the reasons set forth above, applicant has amended the claims such that every independent claim (claims 57, 67, and 71) corresponds to an objected-to claim in rewritten form and such that each of the other claims ultimately depends from claim 57, 67, or 71, as set forth above in

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Section I, thereby rendering the rejections moot. Therefore, each of the pending claims should be allowable.

III. Conclusion

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

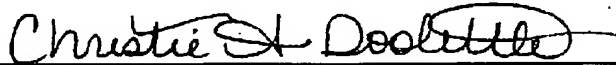
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner Jacqueline F. Stephens, Group Art Unit 3761, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on November 24, 2006.



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